

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 13832 221105Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-01 /061 W

----- 072550

P 220957Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8592

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13832

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, RP, ELAB

SUBJECT: ARCHBISHOP SIN SPEAKS OUT AGAINST GOVERNMENT
DETENTION POLICY

REF: A. MANILA 13826 (NOTAL

B. MANILA A-372 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN MEETING NOVEMBER 21 WITH FOREIGN
CORRESPONDENTS, ARCHBISHOP SIN SPOKE OUT AGAINST GOVERN-
MENT'S DETENTION POLICY AND CLAIMED A "CREEPING CLIMATE
OF FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY ...IS SWEEPING THE COUNTRY."
SIN ALSO ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO ABUSES BY THE MILITARY,
THE HUNGER STRIKE OF LOPEZ AND OSMENA, THE BARANGAY
SYSTEM, LABOR UNIONS, PEASANT ORGANIZATIONS, AND
AGRARIAN REFORM. HE ANNOUNCED HE HAD SENT OFF A CABLE
TO PRESIDENT FORD IN SEOUL REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT'S
GOOD OFFICES IN SECURING JUSTICE FOR THE IMPRISONED
BISHOP DANIEL TJI. THESE LATEST BLUNT THOUGH WELL-
REASONED UTTERANCES INDICATE A CONTINUED DETERMINATION
ON HIS PART TO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS
RELATED TO CHURCH INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING WITH GROUP OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS
EVENING NOVEMBER 21, MANILA'S OUTSPOKEN ARCHBISHOP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 13832 221105Z

JAIME L. SIN SPOKE OUT AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S DETENTION

POLICY AND CLAIMED A "CREEPING CLIMATE OF FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY ... IS SWEEPING THE COUNTRY." AP HAS FILED STORY (NOV 22) ON HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW STATEMENT BY SIN HANDED OUT TO FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT BEING AIR POUCHED.

2. SIN STATED THAT "INDEFINITE DETENTION WITHOUT PROMPT FILING OF CHARGES AND PROSPECTS OF AN EARLY, SPEEDY AND OPEN TRIAL IS UNJUST." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME SHOULD ISSUE A "CLEAR-CUT DEFINITION OF SUBVERSION...A CATCH-ALL TERM THAT COULD INCLUDE ALMOST ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING...IF IT HOPES TO ELIMINATE THE CREEPING CLIMATE OF FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY THAT IS TREATENING THE COUNTRYR."

3. WHILE COMMENDING EFFORTS OF LEADERS OF THE AFP TO CURB ABUSES, HE NOTED THEY "HAVE NOT ALTOGETHER BEEN SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE I KNOW OF CASES OF TORTURE AND BRUTAL KILLING...WHICH THE CHURCH HAS PROTESTED." SIN SPECIFICALLY COMPLAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE KILLINGS OF TWO MEN HE SAID HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY THE MILITARY. ONE OF THE KILLINGS INVOLVED MARSMAN ALVAREZ, BROTHER OF FORMER CONCON DELEGATE HEHERSON ALVAREZ.

4. REGARDING THE HUNGER STRIKES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR. AND SERGIO OSMENA III (REF. A)N SIN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AND SAID HE HAD REQUESTED PERMISSION TO VISIT ALL DETAINEES INCLUDING LOPEZ AND OSMENA. THE ARCHBISHOP ALSO ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE BARANGAY SYSTEM, LABOR UNIONS, PEASANT ORGANIZATIONS, AND AGRARIAN REFORM.

5. THE ARCHBISHOP TOUCHED UPON THE MATTER OF IMPRISONED SOUTH KOREAN BISHOP DANIEL TJI (MANILA 13445), NOTING THAT HE HAD THAT DAY SENT THREE CABLES (ADDRESSED TO BISHOP TJI, PRESIDENT PARK, AND PRESIDENT FORD) TO SEOUL ON THE MATTER. THE CABLE TO PRESIDENT FORD, WRITTEN IN THE NAME OF THE CBCP (CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES), REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 13832 221105Z

GOOD OFFICES IN "SECURING JUSTICE FOR BISHOP DANIEL TJI AND OTHER POLITICAL DETAINEES AND IN EFFECTING THEIR RELEASE."

6. ACCORDING TO A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE ARCHBISHOP, MEETING WITH FOREIGN PRESS GREW OUT OF OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSN. AT WHICH ARCHBISHOP HAD BEEN "ROASTED". HE HAD RESPONDED BY

INVITING THEM TO BE HIS GUESTS NEXT TIME AROUND. THE GET-TOGETHER AT ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE WAS TO HAVE BEEN "A SOCIAL OCCASION". HOWEVER, ONE OF CORRESPONDENTS HAD SUBMITTED LIST OF QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE. SIN BELIEVED THAT HE "SHOULD MAKE A STAND" -- THUS DECISION TO ISSUE THE STATEMENT. FOREIGN PRESS GROUP CONSISTED OF SOME 30 CORRESPONDENTS (INCLUDING AP, UPI, AFP) AND STRINGERS, APPROXIMATELY HALF OF WHICH WERE FILIPINOS.

7. COMMENT: THESE LATEST BLUNT THOUGH WELL-REASONED UTTERANCES BY ARCHBISHOP SIN INDICATE A CONTINUED DETERMINATION ON HIS PART TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS RELATED TO CHURCH INTERESTS. HIS BOLD STAND ON NOVALICHES VIGIL INITIALLY SET THE TONE LAST SEPTEMBER. BY NO MEANS IS SIN ATTEMPTING TO PROMOTE OPPOSITION TO THE MARCOS REGIME, BUT HIS EFFORTS TO TRY AND KEEP REGIME HONEST OBVIOUSLY HAS IMPACT BROADER THAN CHURCH CIRCLES.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLICIES, POLITICAL PRISONERS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA13832
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740338-0915
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741120/aaaaaqwl.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MANILA 13826 (NOTAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARCHBISHOP SIN SPEAKS OUT AGAINST GOVERNMENT DETENTION POLICY
TAGS: PINT, SOCI, ELAB, RP, (SIN, JAIME L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005